

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00997 020936Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 /029 W
-----086733 020944Z /15

P 020845Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9762
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, VM, SN
SUBJECT: REFUGEES FROM GATEWAY CITY

1. SINGAPORE IMMIGRATION AND UNHCR OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT TWO VIETNAMESE RESCUED BY THE S.S. GATEWAY CITY AND ALLOWED TO STAY IN SINGAPORE UNDER A U.S. RESETTLEMENT GUARANTEE HAVE REQUESTED REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM. BOTH INDIVIDUALS WERE SECURITY GUARDS ABOARD THE SRV GOVERNMENT-OWNED FISHING VESSEL USED BY THE REFUGEES TO ESCAPE. WHILE THE GUARDS WERE ASLEEP ON THE NIGHT OF THE ESCAPE, THE CREW TOOK AWAY THEIR GUNS AND THEN PICKED UP THE GROUP OF WAITING REFUGEES. ALTHOUGH THESE TWO WERE FORCED TO ACCOMPANY THE OTHERS THEY WERE APPARENTLY NOT ILL-TREATED. THEY MADE NO MENTION OF THEIR STATUS TO THE GATEWAY CITY'S CAPTAIN NOR INITIALLY TO SINGAPORE IMMIGRATION.

2. IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOS WILL ASK ARV THROUGH ITS TRADE REPRESENTATIVE HERE TO TAKE THE TWO GUARDS BACK. THEY HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER REFUGEES PENDING THE RESOLUTION OF THEIR CASES.

3. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER IS PESSIMISTIC THAT SRV
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WILL ACT QUICKLY IF AT ALL. HE NOTED THAT VIETNAMESE GUARDS WHO WERE TAKEN TO AUSTRALIA IN COMMANDEERED FISHING BOATS ARE STILL AWAITING APPROVAL FROM SRV TO BE REPATRIATED.

4. WHILE THE TWO GUARDS MIGHT TECHNICALLY BE CONSIDERED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GUARANTEE PROVIDED BY THE USG (I.E., TO TAKE ALL THOSE FROM THE S.S. GATEWAY CITY NOT ACCEPTED BY

THIRD COUNTRIES WITHIN THREE MONTHS), IT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT A
PRACTICAL POSSIBILITY. WE SEE NO ROLE FOR US IN THIS UNUSUAL
SITUATION AND, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, BELIEVE IT BEST
TO ALLOW THE GOS TO TRY TO RESOLVE IT WITH THE SRV..
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEES FROM GATEWAY CITY
TAGS: SREF, VM, SN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/21d7bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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